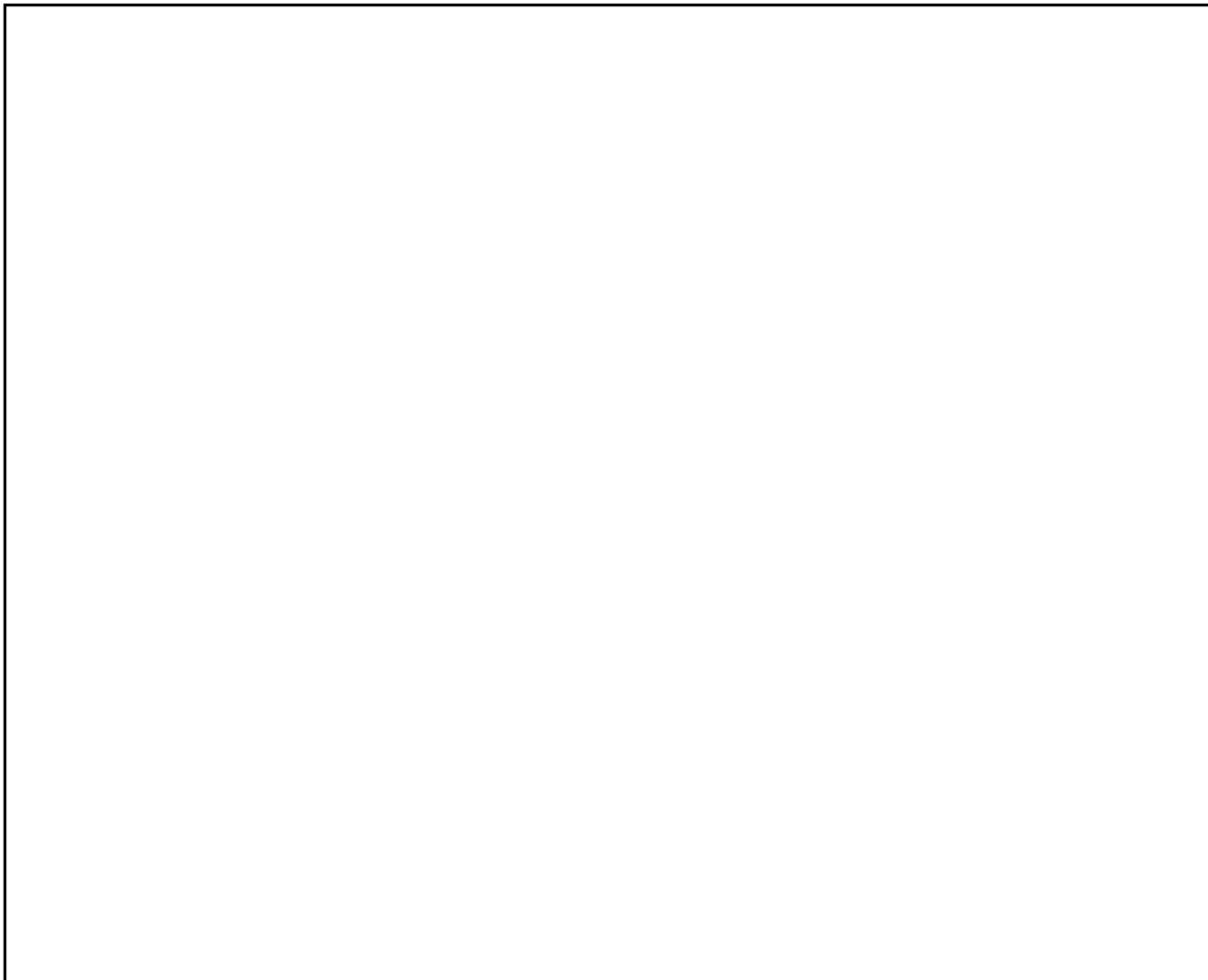


NSC BRIEFING

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MIDDLE EAST NOTES

I.



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C. Situation in Iraq thus remains one which Communists can exploit. Pro-Communist "Peoples Court" president Mahdawi seized opportunity presented by Qasim assassination attempt to rush home from Communist China, where he had been sent to cool off.

II. In Iran, Shah continues to face serious problems. These include Soviet propaganda campaign, differences with Iraq over navigation rights on Shatt al-Arab, dispute with Afghanistan over division of Helman River waters, restiveness and conspiracy among Kurdish tribesmen, and other signs of domestic instability.

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